

Ms. Abbott devoted a great deal of time educating herself so she could serve others. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and received Bachelor Degrees from St. Mary of the Springs College in Columbus, Ohio, and Concord College in Athens, West Virginia. She received a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from West Virginia University and did advanced studies at the University.

Ms. Abbott taught at Rhodell, Stoco and Hollywood Elementary Schools. She served as curriculum supervisor for Raleigh County Schools for 28 years and served on numerous committees at the county, state and national levels.

Retiring from the Raleigh County School system in 1988, Ms. Abbott became active in the West Virginia and Raleigh County Associations of Retired School Employees, and was a West Virginia State volunteer for AARP serving as the West Virginia Retired Educators Liaison. She was a Prisoner Visitation and Support Volunteer at the Federal Correctional Institution of Beckley, a member of the Woman's Club of Beckley serving as the president in 2008–2010, Delta Kappa Gamma Honorary Society for teachers, and a member of the Raleigh County Democrat Executive Committee.

It's not surprising that Ms. Abbott's love for our great Nation and her passion for learning continue to benefit her community. On September 17th the first Mary Abbott Memorial Scholarship awards will be presented to three worthy Raleigh County high school students who have penned winning essays titled, "What the United States Constitution Means to Me."

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the contributions of dedicated, devoted citizens, like Mary Abbott, that this Nation has been so blessed. And because of the lessons Mary Abbott so selflessly imparted to generations, her work will continue without end.

HONORING LEAH LACAYO

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Leah Lacayo, an exemplary civil servant, advocate, and community leader in Ventura County.

Leah Lacayo has defined civil service through her leadership roles in her community. Her volunteer work has included serving as a trustee of the Ventura County Fair Foundation, a founding member of Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund, a board member to the Jewish Labor Committee, and member of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

She is a staunch advocate for young people and a passionate supporter for women's rights. Leah has also been a steward for the senior community working alongside her husband, Hank, with the Congress of California Seniors.

Additionally, Leah Lacayo has been an active community leader and champion for California State University at Channel Islands (CSUCI) since the university's inception in 2002. More recently, she was elected as the Alumni and Friends Association's Executive Board President in 2009. While serving in this capacity, her goals were to promote a self-

sustaining board and create scholarship opportunities for students. Over the years, Leah has been a steadfast supporter of CSUCI students as a voice that encourages and empowers them to pursue their academic endeavors.

The work Leah has done, and continues to do, has strengthened our community in a remarkable way. Never failing to rise to the occasion when being asked to serve, the Board of Directors to the 31st District Agricultural Association elected Leah Lacayo as President while serving her second appointment to the board. In this capacity, she oversees the legal body governing the fair and fairgrounds in Ventura County. Leah has upheld the fair as a regional enterprise and continuing source of income for the area.

Leah is a good friend to many and I certainly cherish our friendship. She has been a steadfast supporter and has always been willing to offer honest counsel to me over the years both in the California Legislature and in the US Congress on policy issues affecting Ventura County.

For these reasons, it is my sincere pleasure to join the Jewish Labor Committee in recognizing Leah Lacayo with the Elinor Glenn Leadership Award for her extraordinary life of leadership, engagement, and dedication to her community.

HONORING CAPT. JOSE ACOSTA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHANGE OF COMMAND AT THE CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CENTER

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor Captain Jose Acosta, who will be relinquishing Command at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) in the suburban Chicago district that I represent.

In 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) opened Lovell FHCC, our nation's first integrated VA–DOD federal health care center. Lovell FHCC was the culmination of years of vision, planning and hard work. It was and is an example of excellence for all other VA and DoD health care facilities.

Capt. Acosta joined Lovell FHCC in 2012 as the Commanding Officer and Deputy Director, and he was subsequently named Acting Director. In this capacity, Capt. Acosta managed the day-to-day operations of the federal health center, which provides medical care for the veterans and military families in the area. Additionally, Lovell FHCC is responsible for maintaining the military readiness of the more than 40,000 new sailors receiving basic training each year at Naval Station Great Lakes, as well as the 4,000 active duty personnel on base.

Under Capt. Acosta's leadership, Lovell FHCC made the vision of an integrated health system a reality, raising the bar of achievement. Currently in its fourth year, Lovell FHCC provides world-class medical service to the veterans, active duty personnel, military family and recruits in North Chicago and the surrounding communities, holding more than 800,000 patient visits in 2013 alone.

Throughout his distinguished career, Capt. Acosta has displayed extraordinary commitment to his country and dedication to his fellow soldiers. He fully embraced and brought to life Lovell FHCC's mission of "Readying Warriors and Caring for Heroes."

I want to personally thank Capt. Acosta for everything that he has done at Lovell FHCC, and wish him the best of luck as he continues his service as the Commanding Officer for Naval Medical Center San Diego.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDNA FARRELL, 2014 MS. ALABAMA NURSING HOME

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Edna Farrell, a resident of Arbor Springs Health and Rehabilitation Center in Opelika. Mrs. Farrell was recently named the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home.

Edna Farrell is a native of Brooklyn, New York. She is also a Cornell graduate and a retired nurse and was a member of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. When she graduated from the corps, she had three Maltese crosses on her shoulders, a sign of high ranking. Her husband who fought in World War II and Vietnam, took the family from Brooklyn to Fort Benning, Korea and Honolulu.

Mrs. Farrell was named Ms. Arbor Springs Health and Rehab Center in the nursing home's pageant last year. Farrell was named the 2014 Ms. Alabama Nursing Home this July during the pageant, which was held in Birmingham.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Edna Farrell on her achievement and wishing her great success during her reign as 2014's Ms. Alabama Nursing Home.

RECOGNIZING SARA LOUISE STEVENS BOOTH AND CHRISTOPHER "KIT" HENRY BOOTH FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sara Louise Stevens Booth and Christopher "Kit" Henry Booth for their extraordinary community service.

The Commemoration of the Battle of Plattsburgh began in 1997 as a weekend event and this year will take place during sixteen days. It is an event that captures the interest of history buffs, authors of history books, children and adults of all ages.

Kit and Sally Booth, people that I have known for well over thirty years, have been the prime movers for the development of this exciting historical event in our community. It now provides concerts, the Children's Old Time Village Fair, offers dances and authentic food from the period, all of which appeal to not only those interested in the historical importance of the Battle of Plattsburgh but those just interested in having a fun weekend.